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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/684,075	10/08/2000	John Fors	0544MH-36340	2874
53184	7590	01/04/2006	EXAMINER	
i2 TECHNOLOGIES US, INC. ONE i2 PLACE, 11701 LUNA ROAD DALLAS, TX 75234			ROBINSON BOYCE, AKIBA K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3639	
DATE MAILED: 01/04/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/684,075

Applicant(s)

FORS, JOHN

Examiner

Akiba K. Robinson-Boyce

Art Unit

3639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5-22 and 24-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 5-11, 14-20, 22, 24-30, 33-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12,13,21,31 and 32 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Due to communications filed 10/6/05, the following is a non-final office action. Prosecution has been re-opened on this case. Claims 2, 3, 5-22, 24-40 are pending in this application and have been examined on the merits. The previous rejection has been withdrawn and the following reflects the claims as disclosed in the appeal brief filed 10/6/05. Claims 2, 3, 5-22, 24-40 are rejected as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 15, 17-19, 24-26, 28-30, 32, 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sellers et al (US 5,311, 438), and further in view of Morii (US 5,237,495).

As per claims 7, 15, 26, 32, 34, Sellers et al discloses:

using the computer system, selecting a set of candidate products to be developed/a set of candidate products/select a set of candidate products to be developed/means for selecting a set of candidate products, (col. 79, lines 31-34, [submit a request for a new product]);

Art Unit: 3639

using the computer system, calculating a set of financial projections for each candidate product/a set of financial projections associated with each candidate product/calculate a set of financial projections for each candidate product/means for calculating a set of financial projections/means for calculating a set of financial projections for each candidate product, the set of financial projections for a candidate product providing a future profit...(col. 113, lines 44-49, [profitability index]);

using the computer system, providing at least one project definition/a set of project definitions/provide at least one project definition/mean for providing at least one project definition for each candidate product, such project definitions each including a development schedule and resource requirements, (Col. 8, lines 35-41, [material requirements planning function]);

using the computer system, providing a set of available resources/a set of available resources/provide a set of available resources/means for providing a set of available resources, (Col. 8, lines 42-43, [defines/maintains resources]); and

using the computer system, generating a development schedule/generate a development schedule/means for generating a development schedule for the set of candidate products to maximize profit...such that products more affected by time are scheduled for faster production than products less affected by time, the development schedule providing for product development in accordance with project definitions for each of the candidate products and resource constraints/a planning engine operable to: read in the set of candidate products, the sets of financial projections for the candidate products, the sets of project definitions for the candidate products, and the set of

Art Unit: 3639

available resources; select a set of candidate products that meets all resource availability constraints and maximizes profits; generate a development schedule for the selected set of candidate products, (col. 87, lines 18-23, [reviewing production scheduling test specification] w/ Col. 89, lines 5-10, [browse results such a profitability], col. 107, lines 5-9, [project definition conversation used to define product development effort]).

Sellers et al fails to disclose *the determination for each of a set of possible product introduction dates for the candidate product and using the computer system, for each candidate product, determining based on the set of financial projections an impact that the time of introduction has on profits associated with the candidate product, or maximizing profit based at least on the determined impact that the time of introduction has on profits associated with each of the candidate products and using the financial projections for the candidate products as a weighted factor in generating the development schedule/products more affected by time are scheduled for faster production than products less affected by time*, but does disclose the process of facilitating new products in the abstract, lines 13-15, and discloses purchase requisition maintenance for products where the requested delivery date is indicated for each requisition in col. 70, lines 63-68.

However, Morii discloses a production/purchase management processing system and method that shows:

determination for each of a set of possible product introduction dates for the candidate product/for each candidate product, determining based on the set of financial

Art Unit: 3639

projections an impact that the time of introduction has on profits associated with the candidate product, or maximizing profit based at least on the determined impact that the time of introduction has on profits associated with each of the candidate products and using the financial projections for the candidate products as a weighted factor in generating the development schedule/products more affected by time are scheduled for faster production than products less affected by time, (Col. 5, lines 28-42, where the arrangement classification for the production of an intermediate product is made in a sequence dependent on the appointed date of delivery, in this case, the appointed date of delivery for an arrangement sequence represents the set of possible introduction dates. In this case, Morii does not specifically disclose the determination of profits, however, does disclose the implementation of cost accounting into a project delivery system in col. 1, lines 12-19, where cost accounting in project delivery does include determining profits for the delivery of products). Morii et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that product schedules can be developed according to the appointed delivery date.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to make a determination for each of a set of possible product introduction dates for the candidate product, and use weighted factors in generating the development schedule such that products more affected by time are scheduled for faster production with the motivation of processing tasks that can be done immediately first.

As per claims 2, 24, Sellers et al discloses:

Art Unit: 3639

Wherein each project definition comprises a plurality of ordered tasks for developing the product associated with the project definition, each task comprising a time requirement, a resource requirement, and an ordering constraint with respect to the other tasks in the project definition, (col. 107, lines 5-9, [request priority, targeted commercial location and line, design category]).

As per claims 3, 6, 25, Sellers et al discloses:

wherein a candidate product includes at least two project definitions, the method comprising selecting one of the at least two project definitions in the development schedule for generating the development schedule/ a candidate product comprises at least two project definitions; and the planning engine selects one of the at least two project definitions for inclusion in the development schedule, (Col. 105, lines 49-51, [shows browsing of all design request {project definitions} detail screens for inclusion in development process]).

As per claim 5, Sellers et al discloses:

wherein the project definitions comprise a plurality of ordered tasks, with each task containing a time requirements, a resource requirement, and an ordering constraint with respect to the other tasks in the project definition, (col. 107, lines 5-9,[shows request priority, targeted commercial location and line, design category], w/ col. 179,lines 20-22, [shows there are tasks in the development process]).

As per claims 9, 17, 28, Sellers et al fails to disclose wherein the ordering constraint defines a sequence for the plurality of ordered tasks, the sequence providing one or more of the following: certain tasks must be completed before other tasks; and

Art Unit: 3639

certain tasks may be completed in parallel with certain other tasks, but does disclose the process of facilitating new products in the abstract, lines 13-15.

However, Morii et al discloses:

wherein the ordering constraint defines a sequence for the plurality of ordered tasks, the sequence providing one or more of the following: certain tasks must be completed before other tasks; and certain tasks may be completed in parallel with certain other tasks, (col. 5, lines 38-42, shows that the arrangement classification for the production of products are to be made in a sequence dependent on the appointed date of delivery). Morii discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that products can be processed in a specific sequence.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to define a sequence for a plurality of ordered tasks with the motivation of defining a schedule for processing the tasks.

As per claims 10, 18, 29, Sellers et al fails to disclose wherein generating the development schedule comprises enforcing the ordering constraint when scheduling development of products, but does disclose the process of facilitating new products in the abstract, lines 13-15.

However, Morii discloses:

wherein generating the development schedule comprises enforcing the ordering constraint when scheduling development of products, (col. 1, lines 41-51, shows time limits for assembling the final products). Morii discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that assembling orders are based on delivery time limits.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to enforce the ordering constraint when scheduling development of products with the motivation of developing the products in a particular order.

As per claims 11, 19, 30, Sellers et al discloses:

wherein at least one project definition comprises one or more phases for development of the associated candidate product, each phase comprising one or more of the plurality of ordered tasks, (col. 145, lines 56-60, [statuses that design requests must pass through during production development]).

4. Claims 8, 14, 16, 22, 27, 33, 35-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sellers et al (US 5,311, 438), and further in view of Morri (5,237,495), and further in view of Baseman et al (US 6,671,673).

As per claims 8, 16, 27, neither Sellers et al nor Morri disclose determining, based at least on the sets of financial projections for the candidate products, which products would generate the greatest profits; and prioritizing the candidate products that would generate the greatest profits in generating the development schedule, but Sellers does disclose the process of facilitating new products in the abstract, lines 13-15.

However, Basemen et al discloses:

determining, based at least on the sets of financial projections for the candidate products, which products would generate the greatest profits; and prioritizing the candidate products that would generate the greatest profits in generating the development schedule, (Col. 21, line 59-Col. 22, line 2, [giving preference to customers who paid earliest if firm is constrained on cash], w/ Col. 22, lines 24-25, [maximizing

Art Unit: 3639

profit)). Baseman et al discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of showing that preference is given to customers in order to increase revenue, therefore increasing profit.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to prioritize the candidate products that would generate the greatest profit with the motivation of generating a development schedule that would produce the greatest profits first.

As per claims 14, 22, 33, neither Sellers et al nor Morii disclose generating as an output a projected profit number in addition to the development schedule, however Sellers et al does disclose the process of facilitating new products in the abstract, lines 13-15.

However, Baseman et al discloses:

generating as an output a projected profit number in addition to the development schedule, (Col. 20, lines 50-86, [increasing revenue by accessing impact on profit and allocating output to customers]). Baseman discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of providing a profit value to customers.

It would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to generate as an output a projected profit number in addition to the development schedule with the motivation of providing the actual profit that would be accumulated for the phase of development.

As per claims 35, 37, 39, Sellers et al discloses:

Art Unit: 3639

the set of candidate products define a first product mix, (Col. 162, lines 22-27, each variation for item or product);

the generated development schedule for the first product mix comprises a first development schedule, (col 162, lines 44-49, item/spec information used for production scheduling); and

generating as an output a first projected profit number for the first product mix in addition to generating the first development schedule/generate as an output a first projected profit number.../generate as an output a first projected profit number...(Col. 113, lines 32-49 discloses a profitability index);

changing, after generating the first development schedule for the first product mix and generating the first projected profit number for the first product mix, the set of candidate products in the first product mix to define a second product mix/change, after generating the first development schedule...(col. 163, lines 6, add, modify...physical specifications, w./ col. 162, lines 22-27, where it is shown that there is more than one variation for an item or product);

generating a second development schedule for the second product mix, and generating as an output a second projected profit number for the second product mix in addition to generating the second development schedule/generate a second development schedule...and generate as an output a second projected profit number...(col. 73 lines 15-30, lot split indicates splitting inventory items and therefore schedules and profit numbers);

Art Unit: 3639

Neither Sellers nor Morii disclose enabling a user to compare the first development schedule and the second development schedule and to compare the first projected profit number and the second projected profit number to determine whether the first product mix or the second product mix is suitable, but Sellers does disclose one or more variation for an item or product which indicates a product mix in col. 162, lines 22-27.

However, Baseman discloses:

enabling a user to compare the first development schedule and the second development schedule and to compare the first projected profit number and the second projected profit number to determine whether the first product mix or the second product mix is suitable, but does disclose one or more variation for an item or product which indicates a product mix, (Col. 2, line 65-Col. 3, line 5, analyzes sources or profits and then compares planned and incurred costs). Baseman discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of incorporating investment planning.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to enable a user to compare the first development schedule and the second development schedule and to compare the first projected profit number and the second projected profit number to determine whether the first product mix or the second product mix is suitable with the motivation of determining which product plan is more appropriate.

As per claims 36, 38, 40, Sellers discloses:

Art Unit: 3639

wherein changing the set of candidate products in the first product mix to define a second product mix comprises one or more of: removing one or more of the products in the set of candidate products of the first product mix; adding one or more new products to the first product mix; and altering the project definition of one or more of the products in the set of candidate products of the first product mix, (col. 163, lines 6, add, modify...physical specifications).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 31, 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 3, 5-22, 24-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba K Robinson-Boyce whose telephone number is 571-272-6734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm.

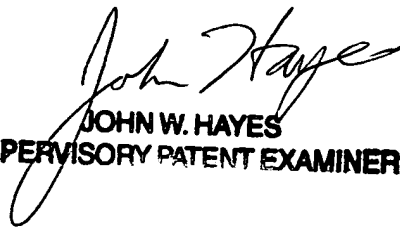
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7238 [After final communications, labeled "Box AF"], 703-746-7239 [Official Communications], and 703-746-7150 [Informal/Draft Communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].

Art Unit: 3639

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



A. R. B.
December 23, 2005



JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER